

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-18 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims.

25. (New) The seal of claim 19 wherein the seal is about 0.225 inches thick.
26. (New) The seal of claim 19 wherein the seal comprises a generally oval shape.
27. (New) The seal of claim 19 wherein the seal comprises a concave area.
28. (New) The seal of claim 19 wherein the seal comprises a convex arc.
29. (New) The seal of claim 19 wherein the seal comprises a variable thickness.

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this Amendment and Response, claims 1-24 are pending. Claims 1-18 are withdrawn from consideration and cancelled hereby without prejudice and without any intention of abandoning the subject matter of these claims. New claims 25-29 are added. Claim 19 is the only independent claim under consideration. Support for the amendment is found at, for example, page 16, line 15 to page 17, line 21. In light of the remarks presented herein, reconsideration and allowance of claims 19-29 is respectfully requested. Applicants also amend the Specification to correct a typographical error.

Information Disclosure Statements

Although Applicants believe the Examiner intended to indicate his consideration of the references listed on page 3 of 5 of the Form PTO-1449 mailed to Patent Office on October 20, 1999 (Tab A), Applicants request clarification of his intent by returning a copy of the Form PTO-1449 on which he has initialed all of the boxes corresponding to all of the references listed on page 3 of 5. Additionally, Applicants request that the Examiner return a copy of the Form PTO-1449 mailed to the Patent Office on January 24, 2000 (Tab B), on which the Examiner has initialed all of the boxes corresponding to all of the references listed on the form. A copy of each of the Form PTO-1449s is enclosed for the Examiner's convenience.